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SYLVA SCHOOL BAND

The business firms and individuals, who contributed to the fund for financing a band for Sylva schools, as well as those who solicited the donations, have just right, to BOAST of having had a part in its realization. The recent concerts of the band were far ahead of what the community realized was being accomplished. When we say we were delighted, we believe we express the feeling of all who heard the concerts.

The band is truly a reality. Let us see that it continues; let us back it to the fullest. It is a band with a future, we believe.

AN UNREASONABLE REQUEST

In making a request to the North Carolina Utilities Commission for permission to remove trains Nos. 17 and 18 now running between Asheville and Murphy the Southern Railway is being unreasonable. The company claims that the passenger patronage does not pay the expenses of operating the trains. We grant them that. But what have they done in recent years to hold, or to increase passenger travel? Little if anything. But the trains, however do not operate at a loss. The mail contract and large volume of express takes care of that alright.

If the Commission grants the request and the trains are discontinued it would leave the entire section of Western North Carolina West of Asheville, which includes a population over 100,000 people without passenger train service, or mail and express by rail.

Already action has been started by the civic clubs, business firms, and private citizens of Jackson county in protest against the railroad's request. No let up should be made in this protest until the Commission has ruled that the trains must continue to serve the public.

IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM

Freedom is always destroyed in the name of freedom.

This is one of the tragic lessons to be found in the bloody history of the modern world. Mussolini invented Fascism in the name of liberty for the Italian people—and promptly enslaved them in the police state he created. Hitler came to power with a rallying cry of German rights and liberties—and embarked upon an unparalleled reign of terror within the borders of the Reich. Today, the Soviet Union is pushing out the ruthless tenacles of Communism—also in the name of freedom and democracy.

There is one other lesson modern history should have taught us all, and it is this: There can be no real freedom in the super-state. Liberty and all-powerful government are completely incompatible. Power and the ruthlessness which power breeds, feed upon themselves. Well-intentioned men are cast aside, and dictators take their places. Every fundamental human right is brutally abrogated when it comes in conflict with the ambitions of the leaders.

A nation which weakens its basic liberties in any way gives a hostage to fortune. A nation which depends upon government to perform services which are the proper function of the private individual and of private enterprise is, unwittingly, preparing the way for regimentation and ultimate dictatorship. Now that England is socializing its basic industries, thoughtful observers see weakening of liberties which have existed there for nearly a thousand years. There must be no vacillation on the part of the people of our own country in opposing European philosophies in our domestic affairs.

Inside Washington

Special to Central Press

WASHINGTON—Secretary of State

George Marshall is believed to have outsmarted the Russians in getting them to agree to the beginning of talks on settlement of their \$11,100,000,000 lend-lease account.

When talks were originally proposed a year ago, the United States acted in connection with the Russian application for a one billion dollar loan from this country.

State department took the position that the loan could be discussed only along with the settlement of all outstanding financial problems.

What was not mentioned was the fact that among these problems was the old question of the Soviet regime honoring the debts of its preceding Czarist government.

The failure of the Communist government to pay individual Americans for property seized under Communist decrees was the sole reason the United States waited so long to recognize the Lenin-Stalin regime.

Now if the Russians were again to bring up the loan proposition in the lend-lease talks, the United States could also bring up the settlement of old debts.

The old debts, of course, are a matter Moscow is believed less ready to talk about now than it was before the war.

BACKERS OF HAROLD E. STASSEN, the only avowed candidate for the 1948 Republican presidential nomination, are taking new hope on the wings of fresh developments.

First off, they are encouraged by the widening split between Senate President Arthur H. Vandenberg and Senator Robert Taft, the GOP domestic policy maker.

They also buoyed by the fact that Stassen's European fact-finding tour—climaxed by his interview with Premier Stalin—has boosted the former Minnesota governor's stock.

The Vandenberg-Taft rift might point the way to a convention deadlock. In event of such a situation, Stassen's boys feel that their candidate might emerge on top much in the manner that Wendell Willkie did in 1940.

MANY FEDERAL WORKERS have come to regard the constant changes in their offices—shifting here and there and moving about—as a form of industry which might be curtailed.

Moving government offices around flourished throughout the war and some officials contended that it actually hampered, rather than helped the war effort.

During lengthy periods offices were dispersed, disrupted and disturbed generally because of the complications caused by moving.

Since the war moving activities have ceased less than most other government activities.

The present State department move is cited as a case in point.

Offices were moved out of the historic old department to the new building, a half a mile away, which soon will be occupied by Secretary of State Marshall and his top advisers.

Many people already in the new offices, meanwhile, will move back to their old ones when Marshall is shifted.

GENERALISSIMO FRANCISCO FRANCO'S announced intention of setting up a monarchy in Spain left the United States cold. The State department says the move will not change the already-distant relations between the Madrid dictatorship and Washington.

It was pointed out that there has been no real indication that Franco plans to surrender any of the major powers which have put him and kept him safely as the dominant figure in Spain.

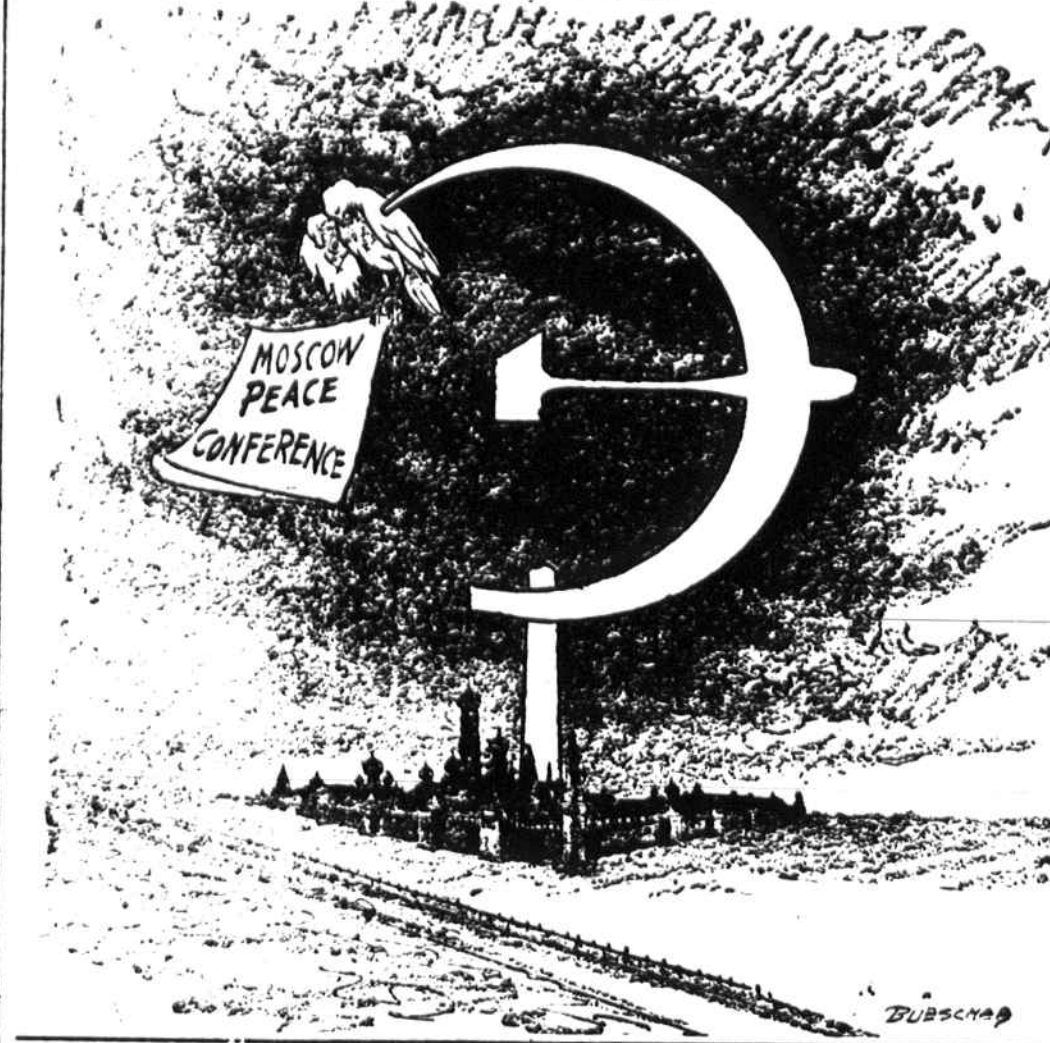
LOOK FOR A GOP DRIVE on Capitol Hill to probe the Federal Communications commission.

Both Senate and House GOP leaders are agreed on demands for an investigation.

Rep. John Wolverton (R), New Jersey, has asked for an inquiry and Senate Majority Leader Wallace White, of Maine, GOP communications expert, is amenable.

The probe would be undertaken to determine whether FCC policies are up-to-date, whether there is discrimination against radio stations and whether leftists wield influence in the commission.

ADJOURNED



The Everyday Counsellor

By REV. HERBERT SPAUGH, D. D.

While Church membership increased last year, Church income fell off. According to the National Stewardship Institute of the Golden Rule Foundation, for the years 1920 to 1932 Church giving averaged \$20.31 per year. During the years 1933 to 1945 it slumped to \$13.90. This happened while Church membership was increasing more rapidly than the population, and while national income was increasing.

While the popular alibi, according to the Institute, is that "we are bled white by taxes, and that our patriotic response to the war effort has left us nothing for charity," the over-all figures of our expenditures may not bear this out. We spent twice as much for tobacco as we gave the Church, three times as much for movies and recreation, and seven times as much for alcoholic beverages.

One wonders where this unbridled thirst for alcoholic beverages is going to lead the two great Christian nations of the world. According to the Associated Press the British people spend annually on drink almost three times the total of their yearly fuel and light bill. What the figure is compared to

their giving to the Church, we do not know. Great Britain and the United States are two of the outstanding "so-called" Christian nations of the world.

Along with this comes the report from the three leading agencies which are working on alcoholism, that we now have an estimated three million alcoholics in the United States and the number is increasing.

Still, we call for more liquor. Apparently we are determined to disregard the teachings proven through the ages in the history of many previous civilizations, that righteousness exalts the nation, but sin and debauchery are a reproach unto the people and mark the beginning of the end of that civilization.

We do not legislate morals into people, nor legislate sin out of them. Apparently now, we are more interested in what alcohol stands for than what the Church stands for.

The spiritual attitude of the nation is going to determine its fu-

Jackson Citizens Protest Rail Service Cut Appeal

(Continued from page 1)

the depot Sunday read: "Notice—application will be made to the North Carolina Utilities Commission for consent and approval for the discontinuance of trains 17 and 18 between Asheville and Murphy.

If the honorable commission grants approval of the petition, the service now rendered will be discontinued."

The notice was signed by T. R. Good, district superintendent, and signed the 11th of May.

MOTHER OBITUARY

Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth (Shelton) Melton, better known by her friends as "Aunt Sallie," was born May 16, 1867, died April 11, 1947, being 79 years, 10 months, 27 days old.

She was married to Hute Melton December 20, 1883, and to this union were born 12 children. Five preceded her in death. The seven living children are Wesley of Arlington, Wash., Mitchell, Walter, and Sterling of Argura, Mrs. Florence Ashe, and Mrs. Myrtle Ashe of Tuckasee, and Mrs. Christine Broom of Darrington, Wash.

"Aunt Sallie" professed faith in Christ and joined the Sol's Creek Baptist church at the age of 15. She lived a consecrated Christian life for 64 years. Her passing will be mourned by this and adjoining communities.

Her going was our loss but Heaven's gain.

The Rev. L. H. Crawford was in charge of the funeral, with Rev. J. C. Massingale assisting.

LAXATIVE

Triena is the laxative for children under 12. Acts promptly and thoroughly to relieve sluggishness, irritability and sour stomach due to faulty elimination. Made with senna. Flavored with prune-juice. No upset digestion with TRIENA. Caution: use only as directed. 30c, large size, 50c.

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LOOKING BACKWARD

From the Files of The Ruralite of 15 years ago

A large number of school officials, teachers, physicians, nurses, and other interested persons from ten North Carolina counties gathered at Cullowhee last week to discuss the health problems of Western North Carolina schools and to work out a suitable solution of these problems.

The Forestry class of the University of New York and fifteen forestry students from State college visited the Sylva Paperboard Co. last Monday. They were taken through the plant and shown every courtesy by the officials and employees of the company.

The first Junior-Senior banquet to be held at Western Carolina Teachers College since it became a four year college, was held Friday evening, May 13. Cooper Greeter is president of the Junior and J. Walter Moore of the Senior class.

The young women of The Sylva Baptist church met Thursday evening at the home of Rev. and Mrs. J. G. Murray for the purpose of organizing a Y.W.A. Miss Edith Buchanan is leader of the group.

Harry Williams, former Sylva boy, has formed a partnership for the general practice of law, with H. B. Foster of Charlotte. He has been visiting his mother, after having just returned from business trips to Washington, New York, and Cleveland.

ture, not the laws we put on our books. The Bible says, "where the man's treasure is, there will his heart be also." If we judge the nation by its spending, we can see where our interest lies.

Truly, we stand in need of a spiritual revival!

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT
Mr. and Mrs. Carl McCracken announce the birth of a son, Carl Michael, on Friday, April 25, at the Harris Community hospital.

A very active thrift program has been organized among Negro 4-H Club members of Wake County.

DR. WALTER L. CUTTER

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Physician

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SYLVA, N. C.